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BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Vikings of the Pacific. The Adventures of the Explorers who came from the West, Eastward; Bering, the Dane; the Outlaw Hunters of Russia; Benyowsky, the Polish Pirate; Cook and Vancouver, the English Navigators; Gray of Boston, the Discoverer of the Columbia; Drake, Ledyard, and other Soldiers of Fortune on the West Coast of America. By A. C. LAUT. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Company. 1905. Pp. xviii, 349.)

THIS attractive volume comprises a series of essays on topics related to the exploration of the North Pacific coast. The author does not profess to give a complete history of discovery in this region. She says in her preface (p. viii): "The Spaniards of the Southwest—even when they extended their explorations into the Northwest—have not been included in this volume, for the simple reason they would require a volume by themselves. . . . Other Pacific coast explorers, like La Pérouse, are not included here because they were not, in the truest sense, discoverers . . ."

But this explanation is hardly satisfactory. Since she is dealing with the North Pacific coast, which means that portion north of the forty-second parallel, it would have been necessary to describe only the three or four Spanish voyages made subsequent to the occupation of California. These would surely not have required a separate volume if the author had been content to omit the long chapter (more than one-tenth of the book) on Sir Francis Drake (whose voyage has no bearing on North Pacific discovery) and the chapter on Benyowsky, which is equally barren of geographical information.

The inclusion of topics like those just mentioned, at the expense of more legitimate subjects, shows that the author's selections were determined by some test other than the strictly historical; and the reader is left in no doubt as to what this test is. It is perfectly clear that Miss Laut took pains to select a list of highly romantic subjects; and also that she industriously assembled, from the masses of available material, such facts as would enable her to present the most dramatic phases of each subject. In other words, we have here history from which all that is tame or merely commonplace has been carefully expurgated.

This may favor the literary success of the book, but it seriously impairs its value to the historical student. For it cannot be too strongly maintained that the truth of history is violable in the plan of a book just as well as in its execution; and the unwary reader who depends upon this volume for his knowledge of the history of North Pacific exploration will be worse "befogged" than were the early navigators of Alaskan waters, the unnatural principle of selection giving him a wholly false perspective.

In matters of detail the author is fairly accurate; though there are a few errors which argue a lack of familiarity with the best secondary authorities within her field. After making all necessary deductions, it may still be said that the book will furnish to the discriminating student a considerable fund of information not so conveniently accessible elsewhere.

JOSEPH SCHAFER.

The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898. Edited by EMMA HELEN BLAIR and JAMES A. ROBERTSON. Vol. XXI., 1624. Vol. XXII., 1625-1629. Vol. XXIII., 1629-1630. Vol. XXIV., 1630-1634. Vol. XXV., 1635-1636. Vol. XXVI., 1636. Vol. XXVII., 1636-1637. Vol. XXIX., 1638-1640. (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1905. Pp. 320, 323, 297, 340, 322, 315, 366, 315.)

TWELVE volumes of this the most valuable work ever published in Philippine history were issued during 1905, coming down to volume XXXII. Of these, eight volumes are here reviewed, leaving for separate review the appendix on ecclesiastical and religious affairs which occupies most of volume XXVIII. and the history of the Dominicans in the Philippines by Aduarte, occupying half of volume XXX. and the two succeeding volumes.

This series is to consist of fifty-five volumes, hence is considerably more than half completed. Yet it will be noted that we are brought down chronologically only to 1640, leaving half the seventeenth century, all the eighteenth, and all the final century of Spanish rule to be covered in twenty-three volumes, including also the complete index which we are promised. It is true, however, that some of the old works which have been republished in part or wholly in the series thus far have covered not only events of 1565 to 1640, but also to some extent later happenings in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, while the ecclesiastical appendix in volume XXVIII. republishes documents summarizing matters of this character down to the close of Spanish rule in the Philippines. This form of treatment by subjects, regardless of strict chronological sequence, may be followed in the succeeding volumes with reference to other than ecclesiastical matters; and it is probably the intention of the editors to deal with the nineteenth century, and to some extent with the eighteenth century, by republishing in translation some of the more important works which are so scarce as virtually to be inaccessible to most students. Nevertheless, the question will arise whether or no too much space has not been given to documents of the conquest period merely, leaving correspondingly less space for the bringing out of hitherto unknown documentary sources upon the really more important periods of Philippine history which follow. These subsequent periods are, moreover, precisely those upon which least light has been shed, apart from certain events and controversies of